

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	B. Bhat, et al.	Examiner:	Not yet assigned
Serial No.:	Not Yet Assigned (Continuation Application of USSN 10/052,318	Art Unit:	Not Yet Assigned
Case No.:	20717YCA		
Filed:	October 17, 2003		
For:	NUCLEOSIDE DERIVATIVES AS INHIBITORS OF RNA- DEPENDENT RNA VIRAL POLYMERASE		

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The above identified case is a continuation application filed under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) which is related to pending U.S.S.N. 10/052,318, filed January 18, 2002.

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment into the above-captioned application and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin at page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin at page 5 of this paper.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE
DATE OF DEPOSIT: October 17, 2003
EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EV3321982497US
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
deposited with the United States Postal Services as
Express Mail "Post Office to Addressee" on the above date
in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents,
P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,
MERCK & CO., INC.

By Lori Schepisi Date 10/17/03